

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 11-17 remain pending. Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-6 and 11-17 were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, claims 7-10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. As the amendment involves only the cancellation of claims and places the application in clear condition for allowance, the amendment is appropriate for entry under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Oyama et al. EP 1,193,226 (“Oyama”). Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the propriety of this rejection, in an effort to advance prosecution claims 7-10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

The application is now in clear condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below if doing so would be helpful to resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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